

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02

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USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-07 /068 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA:JANNUNZIATA:EUR/NE:WABUELL:B

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COAST GUARD:DHASLIP

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R 281911Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045667

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NO

SUBJECT: EXPOSE OF NORWAY'S ACQUISITION OF LORAN AND OMEGA
SYSTEMS

REF: OSLO 0673

1. REFTEL ADVISED THAT CHIEF OF FORMIN'S NATO SECTION,
FREIHOW, WOULD LIKE TO STATE PUBLICLY, IF PRESSED, THAT
LORAN C AND OMEGA HAVE BEEN USED BY THE MERCHANT MARINE
SINCE THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED. OUR INFORMATION
REVEALS THAT THIS DOD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WAS
DECLARED OPERATIONAL BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN OCTOBER
1967. THIS INCLUDED THE THEN EXISTING FOUR OMEGA TRANS-
MITTING STATIONS, INCLUDING THAT LOCATED IN NORWAY. MER-
CHANT MARINE USE OF OMEGA FOLLOWED THEREAFTER AS ENOUGH
RECEIVERS WERE MANUFACTURED AND BECAME AVAILABLE TO THE
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CIVILIAN SECTOR. OMEGA WAS NOT USEABLE THEN AND IS NOT

USEABLE NOW FOR SSBN MISSILE LAUNCH PURPOSES.

2. THE INITIAL USE OF THE LORAN C NETWORK WAS BY THE MILITARY, WITH CIVILIAN USE DEVELOPING LATER. THIS PATTERN HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOST RADIO NAVIGATION SYSTEMS.

3. FREIHOW ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER, AT THE TIME THE AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED, NUCLEAR SUBMARINES DEPENDED ENTIRELY ON LORAN C FOR NAVIGATION. AT THE TIME THE AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED AND TODAY, NUCLEAR SUBMARINES HAVE USED A VARIETY OF NAVIGATION SYSTEMS FOR NAVIGATIONAL DATA. EVEN AS FAR BACK AS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE POLARIS PROGRAM, FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES (SSBNS) HAD MULTIPLE MEANS OF OBTAINING NAVIGATIONAL INFORMATION OF SUFFICIENT ACCURACY TO SUPPORT MISSILE LAUNCH REQUIREMENTS. IN SUCCEEDING YEARS THE NUMBER OF SOURCES FOR OBTAINING NAVIGATIONAL FIXES HAS INCREASED, PARTICULARLY WITH THE ADVENT OF THE NAVY NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM IN 1965.

4. YOU MAY DRAW UPON THE PRECEDING IN RESPONDING TO FREIHOW'S QUERIES. WHILE WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE INFORMATION HEREIN PROVIDED NOT BE MADE PUBLIC BY THE EMBASSY, FREIHOW MAY USE IT IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER INQUIRIES. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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